

Office of the President



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August 30, 2006

Chairman Tom Coburn
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management
Attn: Anna Shopen
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your 27 July letter requesting information on federal grants and contracts awarded to the University of Maine. We are looking into the available data within our institution; however, we will not be able to respond to your specific questions by 1 September. In the meantime, I am pleased to provide the following general information regarding research at the University of Maine.

- Federally sponsored research at the University of Maine for most recent fiscal year (FY-2006): \$41.36 million
- Number of active competitively awarded federal grants and contracts at the University of Maine: 593
- Number of peer reviewed research centers at the University of Maine receiving federal funding: 14

As you may know Maine is one of the 23 EPSCoR States. The EPSCoR program was created to assist states with the lowest amount of federal R&D funding to enhance R&D capabilities to compete for federal R&D grants. The program has had great impact in Maine. The University of Maine and the Maine State Legislature have consistently supported the EPSCoR Program coordinated by the National Science Foundation.

Although Maine still lags behind most states, Federal, State and University investments in EPSCoR have positioned our scientists to win a number of important research awards, and our ability to compete effectively has improved. The University of Maine is proud of our research program and our commitment to solving problems of National need while positively impacting the State of Maine, our citizens and our students.

Since the theme of your inquiry is federal appropriations, I also refer you to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges regarding participation of universities in the federal budget process. The University of Maine supports increased investment in research and development at the federal and state level. As you know, numerous studies have shown that federally sponsored research at institutions like the University of Maine results in significant benefits to our economy and to our free and democratic society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kennedy', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Robert A. Kennedy
President